

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the following paragraph:

Cross-Reference to Related Application

[0001] This application claims priority to and is a divisional of United States Patent Application Serial No. ~~09/919,419~~, No. 6,702,759, filed ~~July 31, 2001~~ issued on March 9, 2004, by to Patrick Pevoto, entitled INTRA-VAGINAL SELF-ADMINISTERED CELL COLLECTING DEVICE AND METHOD, ~~which is~~ incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

[~~0002~~0014] One embodiment, accordingly, provides an intra-vaginal self-administered cell collecting device. To this end, the device includes a tampon like telescoping tube containing an expandable preformed absorbent member. A textured cover is provided on the absorbent member for capturing sloughed-off cells residing in vaginal fluids and for substantially retaining the ~~perform~~ preform of the absorbent material from expansion after exposure to the vaginal fluids.